


EXAM: ULTRASOUND THORACENTESIS Imaging Department 330-596-7700 Scheduling 330-596-7187	
INDICATIONS:	If questions specific to your diagnosis please contact your physician. Thoracentesis is a procedure to remove fluid from the space between the lining of the outside of the lungs (pleura) and the wall of the chest. Normally, very little fluid is present in this space. An accumulation of excess fluid between the layers of the pleura is called a pleural effusion.
CONTRA-INDICATIONS AND PRECAUTIONS:	Please be sure to notify your physician and the imaging staff if you have any allergies, especially to local anesthetics such as lidocaine.
HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE? WHERE SHOULD I GO?	Patient needs to arrive 1 hour prior to the scheduled exam for necessary pre testing. They may also be asked to stay for 1 hour after for observation. Most likely you will be preregistered and you can go directly to the Imaging Department. When you enter the front of the hospital, located on State Street you will go past the waterfall down the main hallway. After you cross the second circular hall intersection, the Imaging comfort area is the first door to the right.
PREPARATION:	Patient should have nothing to eat or drink for 4 hours prior to the exam. If the patient was given an order (prescription) for the exam they must have that with them at the time of the exam.
MEDICATION ISSUES:	Take medication as usual.
WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT:	Blood work will probably be required prior to the exam. During the exam there will be a gel placed on your skin in order to create an image. For certain areas the ultrasonographer will need to apply more pressure than others. You may be asked to hold your breath for short periods of time. Depending on the area of interest a local anesthetic will be used to numb an area. A needle is then placed to drain the fluid into a vacuum container. On occasion the fluid is sent for laboratory evaluation, if needed. Chest x-ray will also be performed after the procedure as a precaution. If you have any questions you may call the Imaging Department at 330-596-7700. To change your appointment call scheduling at 330-596-7187.